

Amendments to the Abstract

Please **add** the following Abstract to this application.

-- Method (300) and apparatus (100) for validating application level gateway (ALG)-files or firewall rulesets (200). The method and apparatus include receiving (304), at a bi-directional communications device (130), an application level gateway (ALG)-file (200), and comparing (308, 310, 314, 320, 326, 332, 336) at least one compatibility parameter of said ALG file with features of said bi-directional communications device. In an instance where all of the compatibility parameters compare favorably, the ALG file is stored (340) at the bi-directional communications device. --